

as in-patients. It was probable, however, that more people now suffered from this lesion than twenty years ago. The only addition he could make to the picture given by Mr. Moynihan was the constancy of local tenderness with slight rigidity of the right rectus. This feature, he thought, made the possibility of confusion with certain instances of biliary lithiasis quite intelligible. Speaking of subphrenic abscess as a complication, he said that the presence of gas was an important point in the differential diagnosis from subphrenic abscess of appendix origin. Mr. WATERHOUSE referred to the difference noticeable in the incidence of gastric and duodenal ulcer in hospital and private practice. He had found duodenal ulcers always palpable, even if not always demonstrable, on inspection. Whilst nine-tenths of his cases had occurred between 30 and 45, he had had cases under 5 years, and the occurrence in tender years should not be overlooked. Multiplicity of the ulcers figured in at least 25 per cent. of cases, so that excision was not a suitable method of treatment. He had experienced great difficulty in deciding whether gastric or duodenal ulceration was the cause of the symptoms in some instances; when this was so it often turned out that both were present. He had noted radiation of the pain, and was impressed with the importance of local tenderness and slight rigidity. When there was no melaena there was often occult blood in the stools. Hyperacidity was not found in his cases. He was glad to notice that the two eminent physicians who had spoken recognized the necessity for handing over these patients to the surgeon after a second attack. Gastro-enterostomy was the one and only treatment, and was all-sufficient. Further debate was adjourned.

Reviews.

POPULAR TROPICAL MEDICINE.

Mosquito or Man? a new book by Sir RUPERT BOYCE, F.R.S., is well worth reading. It is really a history of the recent advances in tropical medicine, especially in reference to mosquito and other insect-carried diseases, and contains also what has been done in regard to the destruction and suppression of these pests. It is divided into two parts, the second dealing with sleeping sickness, ankylostomiasis, Malta fever, and some other diseases not specially associated with insects, and has an appendix in which are (1) ordinances, regulations, and by-laws relating to stagnant water, mosquito larvae, yellow fever, rats, etc.; (2) tropical expeditions and Commissions of the Royal Society, the Colonial Office, and the Schools of Tropical Medicine of London and Liverpool. Being written in an unconventional style and printed in good-sized type it is a pleasure to read, but it contains much that is not only interesting but distinctly instructive. The campaign against mosquitos inaugurated some ten years ago by Professor Ross, and so energetically followed up by the Americans in Cuba, and now at Colon and Panama, has spread so extensively, and such a large literature has sprung up, that it is almost impossible for the ordinary busy man to keep in touch with it. Professor Boyce has realized this, and having had the good fortune to have served on several antimosquito expeditions himself, he has put this knowledge, together with that acquired from the literature, into the form of a book which puts it within the reach of all.

The history of this whole subject is remarkable. When we consider the death-rates set forward in the book, when we remember, to give only one example, that 35,952 deaths from yellow fever occurred in Havana between the years 1853 and 1900, and that at the present time the disease which has caused this enormous mortality has been entirely suppressed, it is not too much to say that it is the finest thing that has ever happened in preventive medicine, and that we are lucky to have lived at such a time and to have witnessed such a revolution. The West Indian Islands, this book tells us, are now moving to follow this splendid example; but there seems to be

a certain tardiness present in many of them—in Jamaica, for example, according to Dr. Prout's report. New scientific truths take time to oust the old traditions and fancies, and probably until the present generation dies out there will still be some disbelievers, though recent results have been so striking that even they may be converted. Another point brought out in the book is the value of the literature of the past.

Too often workers begin to work and then publish their results, believing these to be new, while in reality the observations have been made before and recorded in print. It is something like the old-fashioned physician in *The Doctor's Dilemma*, who, on hearing of the new method of treatment by inoculation, said, "Why, my grandfather practised it years ago." Some splendid examples of the acumen of the physicians of the past in suspecting the part mosquitos play in the spread of disease are given by Sir Rupert Boyce, noticeable amongst these being Beauperthuy, Blair, King, and others. If the literature of the past as regards other diseases was as closely culled, valuable observations and suggestive theories would be found. Summaries of some of the other diseases spread by insects are also, as already mentioned, incorporated in the book. The great value of the work is that it is very simply written; technicalities and technical language are conspicuous by their absence, and the text will be as clear to the man in the street as to doctors and others of the scientific world.

INORGANIC POISONS.

If we may take the volume before us as a fair specimen of Professor DITTRICH's handbook of medical practice,² it should occupy a high place in current medical literature. The preface by Professor VON JAKSCH states in a few lines that he has contributed only the articles on phosphorus poisoning and chronic manganese poisoning, and that all the rest is written by Dr. ERBEN, the assistant in his clinic. The scale of the work may be judged by the fact that this volume contains 458 pages, and deals only with the inorganic poisons. In the general introduction poisons and poisoning are defined and classified as suicidal, homicidal, industrial, medicinal, dietetic, and endogenous or autotoxic, while some consideration is given to general diagnosis and its difficulties, the importance of obtaining an accurate history and of knowing the circumstances of each case, the proof of the existence of the poison and the course and consequences of poisoning. In connexion with the general prognosis of poisoning perhaps more might be made of the undoubted fact that a comparatively small number of those who take poison die from its effects; the statistics of a large hospital show that out of a total number of 26 cases of poisoning admitted during the year 1907 only 1 was fatal. There is a short practical chapter on poisoning from the point of view of medical jurisprudence put in the form of a series of questions which the practitioner called to such a case must attempt to answer. The special part begins with the poisonous gases and we are reminded that the amount of sulphuretted hydrogen in mineral waters may be sufficient to cause loss of appetite, gastric disturbance, diarrhoea, slowing of the pulse and respiration, palpitation and difficulty of breathing. The danger of the emission of phosphuretted hydrogen from ferro-silicon is noted, but nothing is said of arseniuretted hydrogen also given off by this substance under the same conditions. A solution of potassium bichromate used for staining wood for cheap furniture is often the source of accidental poisoning, being taken in mistake for beer or tea; 15 gr. is said to be the minimum fatal dose, but recovery has taken place even after so much as $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; death may occur as late as three weeks from the date of the poison being swallowed, in consequence of pulmonary or renal complications.

Under silicon reference is made to the use of powdered glass to give a glittering appearance to certain confectionery, and to the trouble which has been caused by it in certain

¹ *Mosquito or Man? The Conquest of the Tropical World.* By Sir Rupert Boyce, M.B., F.R.S., Holt Professor of Pathology, University of Liverpool; Dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, etc. London: John Murray. 1909. (Med. 8vo, pp. 283, figs. 44. 10s. 6d.)

² *Handbuch der ärztlichen Sachverständigen-tätigkeit.* Herausgegeben von Professor Dr. Paul Dittrich, Prag. Siebenter band, erster teil: Vergiftungen, klinischer teil, erste hälfte: Allgemeines. Anorganische Gifte, von Dr. Franz Erben. Mit Vorwort und zwei Beiträgen von Prof. Dr. R. v. Jaksch. Wien und Leipzig: Wilhelm Braumüller. 1909. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. 474. Mk. 12=Kr. 14.70.)

cases. In some parts of Germany an infusion of the *Equisetum limosum* is used popularly as a diuretic; it contains much silicic acid and has been known to cause haemoglobinuria. In Sweden, Finland and East Prussia phosphorous obtained from matches is, it is said, commonly used as an abortifacient; it seems to be effective in comparatively small doses (gr. $\frac{1}{2}$) but even these may cause serious symptoms, although the smallest that has proved fatal is gr. $\frac{1}{3}$. It is worth remembering that jaundice after phosphorous poisoning is not always of fatal significance. Some interesting historical information is given on the criminal use of arsenic as a poison. The aqua tofana was a solution of arsenic in aqua cymbalariae (ivy-leaved toadflax.) It is believed to have been invented by Teofania di Adamo, who was executed about 1635 at Palermo, but was employed by Giulia Tofana, who gave her name to it; she came from Palermo to Rome, and died there in 1651, leaving the secret to a friend, Girolama Spara, who also migrated from Palermo to Rome, where she was hanged in 1659. A third Tofana was executed in Naples in 1730, after having committed 600 murders! The practice of arsenic eating, the existence of which has been discredited, is here described, and a case is quoted of the director of an arsenic factory, who had acquired the habit and took as much as 20 grains of coarse powdered arsenic daily. Wishing to give it up, he abruptly broke off the habit, with the consequence that he was seized with severe gastric pain and diarrhoea, followed by collapse and death! Arsenic eaters are met with in several parts of Germany, in Russia, and in the United States, where they are known as "dippers." Buchner is quoted as authority for the statement that in certain girls' schools arsenic is given regularly in the food under medical supervision, in order to improve the complexion and the hair and to cause plumpness!

The section on arsenic may be taken as an example of the thorough and complete way in which each subject is discussed in this volume, and if all the volumes prove equal to this, the work will be of the utmost value.

MODERN PROBLEMS IN PSYCHIATRY.

PROFESSOR LUGARO has for long been known in this country as one of the most distinguished members of a brilliant group of Italian writers on psychiatry and its allied departments of medicine. Therefore, as Dr. Clouston well says in his able "foreword," all workers in science are placed under a heavy obligation to those who undertake the drudgery of translating a good foreign scientific book, such as Professor Lugaro's *Modern Problems in Psychiatry*³ into the English language. Their task, no small one owing to the wide perspectives of the author, the translators have admirably performed. In his general introduction Professor Lugaro refers to the fact that the study of mental diseases touches upon and embraces all the most intricate problems of biology and medicine, besides containing many others which belong to it exclusively. Psychiatry in its practical aspect enters also into so many social and economic relations that its adequate and comprehensive treatment necessitates in the writer an unusual combination of qualities and great breadth of view. The reader cannot go very far into Professor Lugaro's work without becoming convinced that its author possesses every requisite. A master of his own subject, conversant with philosophical and metaphysical teaching yet thoroughly imbued with the results and methods of modern science, Professor Lugaro's work is at once clear and subtle in its reasoning, forcible and incisive in expression, and always original in its mode of regard.

The author treats of his subject under six heads—psychological problems, anatomical problems, problems in pathogenesis, etiological problems, nosological problems, and practical problems. Without forestalling the reading of a book which will doubtless appeal to a wide circle, it may be said in general that Professor Lugaro is ultra-modern in his views of insanity—that is, that he wishes to sweep away the last vestige of the "mistaken opinion," as he terms it, that insanity is due especially to causes of

a psychic nature, and instead throughout this work seeks to base it entirely upon organic processes and events. The main theme of his discourse is contained in the two chapters on pathogenesis and etiology, in which he collates, as far as possible, the data of psycho-pathology with those of normal and pathological anatomy. Popular ideas, more or less reflected in scientific opinions, he maintains, have gone too far in two opposite directions—on the one hand, as we have said above, by attaching too much importance to so-called psychic causes, and on the other by exaggerating the value of the internal or constitutional factors. On this latter point Professor Lugaro will find many to disagree with him. If we include, he says, when speaking of inherited anomalies, not only the patient's organization but that of his ancestors, the anomaly (or internal factor) is simply the result of the marked effects produced by an external cause which acted on it directly or through the organism of the progenitor during development. "Degeneration, looked at from this point of view, is a disease of the stock, and may be recovered from by the inverse process of regeneration." Professor Lugaro's views on this matter are the outcome of his adherence to the inheritability of acquired characters. "In every instance, therefore," he says in his concluding remarks under this head, "be it a single individual or an entire stock which is affected, the inquiry into the cause of the mental disease must attempt to reconstruct the whole complex series of steps which lead back from the symptoms to the primary cause, the external agent."

The chapters which lead up to these two contain a critical examination of the different metaphysical doctrines of materialistic, idealistic and relative monism and of dualism and scepticism, all of which, in the author's haste to escape what he terms "the vicious circle of metaphysical doctrines," are rejected in favour of a naïve "primitive realism." Also, both in the opening chapters and in the concluding chapter with reference to criminal conduct and insanity, there is a good deal of argument about determinism and indeterminism. Concerning this the author's reasoning is almost too ingenious, in places approaching the sophistical, the word "determinism," for example, being used with an unduly wide connotation when to do so is useful to the argument.

In the section on anatomical problems, excellent accounts are given of the neurone doctrine, of which the author is a fervent supporter; of chemo-tropism and neuro-tropism; of Cajal's "Law of Avalanche" and its psychological applications; and of the organic processes which underlie consciousness and affective processes. In the concluding chapters on nosology and practical considerations the author puts in application the various conclusions at which he arrived in the two cerebral chapters of the book. It would take us too far to give an account of these. It may only be briefly said here that he deprecates a symptomatological classification. As clinical entities he admits only certain forms of idiocy, cretinism, alcoholism, general paralysis, and senile dementia. This classification follows naturally from his views regarding the causation and pathogenesis of insanity, in particular with reference to the importance of external factors. In similar fashion his exposition of the relation between crime and mental diseases is narrowed by his strict adherence to the views he has enunciated in the foregoing chapters, which lead him not only to deny the right of entry of anthropological characters into the collection of the factors of insanity, in particular the doctrine of atavism, but to scout—rather too contemptuously, we think—the teaching of the Italian school of criminal anthropologists.

In the foregoing we have sketched the outlines of a book which is full of information, which continually awakens the reader's interest—often by arousing his opposition—and into which nothing is introduced which is not essential to the argument as a whole. We have only one word of mild protest. In places there occur sentences so long and so involved that after repeated reading we have been compelled to give them up, and be content merely with—to quote the words of the translators—"a concrete intuitive concept of a solution."

³ *Modern Problems in Psychiatry*. By Ernesto Lugaro, Professor Extraordinary of Neuropathology and Psychiatry in the University of Modena. Translated by David Orr, M.D., and E. G. Rows, M.D., with a foreword by T. S. Clouston, M.D., LL.D. Manchester and London: Sherratt and Hughes, University Press, 1909. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 385, 7s. 6d.)